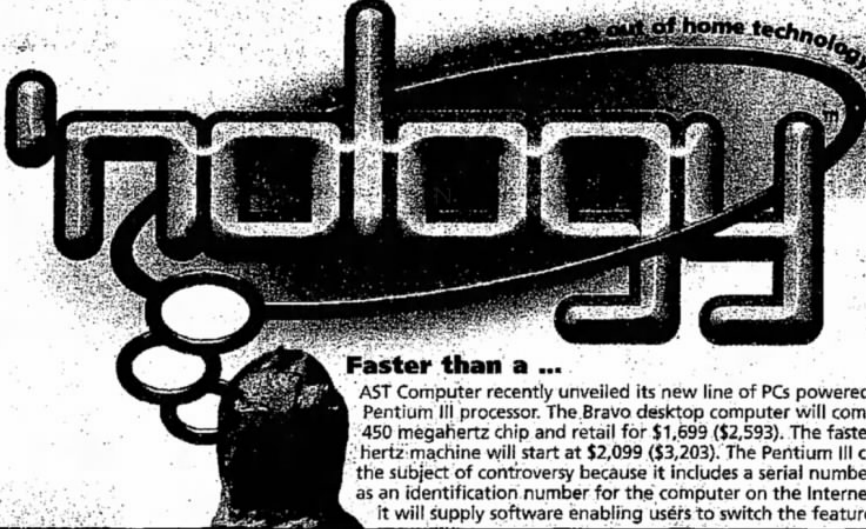


Is that a rug?

Mouse pads. They can be so predictable: fabric-covered foam, plastic, leather. Dull, dull, dull. Why not bring a little class to your desktop with a MouseRug. We'll let its Web site do the talking: "For the first time, the classic beauty of traditional handmade rug patterns has been combined with the new, high-tech Lextra fiber coating process to create the Lextra MouseRug." Available in six styles, you can trap a MouseRug at select retail locations or at www.mouserug.com.

out of home technology



I've got good news ...

The good news is, all this Y2K mania may be a boon for the economy this year, as companies and individuals stockpile goods in the event of problems in the early part of next year. The bad news is, all of that growth toward the end of the year will likely cause the economy to become slightly sluggish when the clock ticks 2000.

Faster than a ...

AST Computer recently unveiled its new line of PCs powered by Intel's Pentium III processor. The Bravo desktop computer will come fitted with a 450 megahertz chip and retail for \$1,699 (\$2,593). The faster 500 megahertz machine will start at \$2,099 (\$3,203). The Pentium III chip has been the subject of controversy because it includes a serial number that could act as an identification number for the computer on the Internet. Intel has said it will supply software enabling users to switch the feature off.